

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 16, 2005. Claims 1, 7-9, 15 and 16 remain in this application, of which Claims 1, 9, 15 and 16 are independent. Claims 2, 4-6, 10 and 12-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Claims 1, 7, 9, 15 and 16 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, this claim has been amended as kindly suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,114,837 (*Nakanishi*), and Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nakanishi* in view of U.S. Patent 5,936,740 (*Fukazawa*).

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a multifunction apparatus, adapted such that any device of a plurality of types of devices can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control on an attached device, where the control differs depending upon the type of device attached. The apparatus of Claim 1 comprises transmitting means for transmitting a timing signal to the attached device for acquiring identifying information stored in the attached device, and receiving means for receiving the identifying information, represented as digital information comprising a plurality of bits of information, including specific data indicating the type of the attached device and characteristic data of the attached device that has been transmitted serially from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal. The apparatus also comprises

determination means for determining whether the attached device is of a specific type, based on bits of information contained in the specific data, and control means. The control means is for exercising control on the attached device, upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type based on the determination made by the determination means. According to Claim 1, the plurality of types of devices include a scanner unit for reading a document image and a printhead cartridge for use in outputting an image to a printing medium, and the determination means determines (i) that the attached device is a scanner unit, if all bits of information in the specific data correspond to zero, or (ii) that the attached device is the printhead cartridge, if values of successive bits in the specific data correspond to alternating 1 and 0, or (iii) otherwise, that the attached device has not been electrically connected correctly.

By virtue of the last-mentioned feature, even if a device is attached incorrectly as a result of an error by a user, or there is dust contamination interfering with obtaining a good electrical contact between contacting parts, malfunctions caused by erroneous identification can be prevented accurately.

Nakanishi relates to a multifunction apparatus for determining two types of devices by checking identification data. In the Nakanishi apparatus, however, Applicant notes that identification data is one bit data, corresponding to a voltage level of a specific terminal, as shown in FIG. 4. In a situation where the attached device is not correctly connected, the result can easily be an erroneous identification of the device. Moreover, Applicant submits that nothing in *Nakanishi* would teach or suggest checking values of a plurality of bits, as is recited in Claim 1, much less any suggestion of making a determination that an attached device has not been electrically connected correctly.

For at least these reasons, it is believed to be clear that Claim 1 is allowable over *Nakanishi*.

Independent Claims 9, 15 and 16 are method, program product and computer memory medium claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

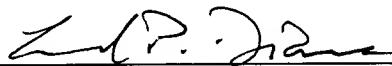
A review of the other art of record, including *Fukazawa*, has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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